

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CURRICULUM

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 4, 2026
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
MS Teams Online

PRESENT:

Voting Members

Brett Favaro
Celia Brinkerhoff
Krista Gerlich-Fitzgerald
Naomi Ben-Yehuda
Parthi Krishnan
Richard Popoff
Shelley Boyd

Non-Voting Members

Catherine Schwichtenberg
Meredith Laird
Nishan Perera

Administrative Resources

Michelle Molnar

Ex-Officio

Bruce Choy, President and Vice-Chancellor
Kwuntiltunaat (Kim Baird), Chancellor

Guests

NOT PRESENT:

Voting Members

Lindsay Norris
Ron Murray

Non-Voting Members

Leeann Waddington
Nadia Henwood

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Richard Popoff moved the agenda be confirmed as amended.

The motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes, January 7, 2026

Richard Popoff moved the minutes be accepted as amended.

The motion carried.

4. Chair's Report

No report.

5. New Business

5.1. Course Submissions

The committee requested new course, BIOL 3140 be removed from the list and be discussed and voted on separately.

Richard Popoff moved that the Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum recommend that Senate approve the February 2026 course submissions with the exception of new course BIOL 3140.

The motion carried.

Discussion of BIOL 3140 focused on course prerequisites and their impact on access for students as well as clarification on assessment 1.

Brett Favaro moved that the Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum recommend that Senate approve BIOL 3140 Climate Change Biology, effective September 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

5.2. Program and Course Discontinuations: Bachelor of Music in Musical Arts, Major in General Studies

Shelley Boyd, Dean, Faculty of Arts provided background and the need to discontinue the program and associated courses as they have not been offered in many years but continue to be found in the published academic calendar.

Shelley Boyd moved that the Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum recommend that Senate recommend the Board of Governors approve the discontinuation of the Bachelor of Music in Musical Arts, Major in General Studies program (BMMA) and its associated courses, effective September 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

6. Items for Discussion

6.1. Student Representation on Senate Standing Committees

The chair facilitated a discussion on the benefits, barriers, and supports for student representation on Senate standing committees. The committee agreed that students bring valuable perspectives on challenges and experiences students face that can help improve curriculum development. The committee recognizes the complexity with this work and suggested orientation, encouragement and mentorships that support student engagement with committee work. Targeted recruitment and incentives were also suggested.

6.2. Committee Membership

The committee reviewed their membership, focusing on proper representation and expertise. They discussed the possibility of alternates as a way of succession planning, the consideration of broader curriculum impacts such as enrollment and program flow and noted that increased meta-level analysis should occur at Faculty governance levels. Capacity restraints within the Teaching and Learning Commons was noted in supporting program revisions and the need for early engagement with proponents to avoid bottlenecks and ensure timely feedback was suggested.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

